

VERBENA X HYBRIDA PLANT NAMED 'ARBENA'**Latin name of the genus and species of the plant claimed**

5 *Verbena x hybrida*

Varietal denomination

'Arbena'

10 **Background of the new plant**

The present invention comprises a new distinct cultivar of *Verbena*, botanically known as *Verbena x hybrida*. The new cultivar is propagated from cuttings resulting from the cross of 'Y699' and 'A713'. 'Y699' is a scarlet flowering *Verbena* having a spreading habit. 'Y699' is not commercially available and is not known by any synonyms. 'A713' is a pink flowering *Verbena* having an erect habit. 'A713' is not commercially available and is not known by any synonyms. Neither 'Y699' or 'A713' has been patented. As a result of this cross the present cultivar was created in 1999 in Enkhuizen, Netherlands and has been repeatedly asexually reproduced by cuttings in Enkhuizen, Netherlands and Sarrians, France over a three year period. It has been found to retain its distinctive characteristics through successive propagations, and this novelty appears to be firmly fixed. 'Arbena' is closely related to the patented variety 'Scarlina', from which it differs in flowercolor and earliness.

This new *Verbena* plant is an annual in most climatical zones in the US, only in zones 8, 9 and 10 it is a perennial plant.

Description of the drawing

30 This new *Verbena* plant is illustrated by the accompanying photographic drawing which shows blooms, buds and foliage of the plant in full color, the color shown being as true as can be reasonably obtained by conventional photographic procedures.

Description of the new cultivar

The following detailed descriptions set forth the distinctive characteristics of this new
 5 *Verbena*. The data which defines these characteristics were collected from asexual
 reproductions carried out in Enkhuizen, Netherlands. The plant history was taken on 13
 weeks old plants, blossomed under natural light in a greenhouse. Color readings were
 taken in the greenhouse under ambient light. Color references are primarily to the RHS
 Color Chart of the Royal Horticultural Society of London.

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Specification of differences with parents and most resembling variety

	Character	‘Arbena’	‘Y699’	‘A713’	‘Scarlena’
	Flowercolor	bicolor, red to pink	scarlet	pink	scarlet
15	Earliness	very early	early	late	early
	Seedset	no	no	much	no
	Leafsize	medium	large	medium	medium

The Plant

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Classification - Botanical : *Verbena x hybrida*

Parentage - Female parent : A seedling named ‘Y699’ is one of our
 seedlings from our Y-generation of plants bred
 25 in 1995

- Pollen parent : A seedling named ‘A713’ is one of our
 seedlings from our A-generation of plants bred
 in 1997.

30 Growth habit : Semi-erect, later spreading

Plant height : 12 - 15 cm

Spreading area of plant : 55 - 85 cm

Growth rate : Hanging and vigorous

Strength : Resistant to hot and cool wheather

Branching Character	: Freely branching and lateral branching at every node
Blooming period	: From April till November

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The stem

Diameter	: 2 - 2.5 mm
Shape	: Tetragonal
10 Anthocyan pigmentation	: Absent
Color of the stem	: 141 B
Length of internode	: 24 - 55 mm, depending on the light where the plant is propagated
Pubescence	: Pubescence is present

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The Foliage

Phyllotaxis	: Opposite
Shape of blade:	: Broadly ovate
20 Texture upper side	: Pubescent
lower side	: Pubescent
Venation	: Pinnate
Leaf margin	: Simple incised
Leaf base	: Shortley attenuate
25 Leaf apex	: Apiculate
Length	: 25 - 40 mm
Width	: 20 - 34 mm
Depth of incision	: 2 - 3 mm
Color - Upper side	: Dark green 137C
30 - Lower side	: Light green 138A
Pubescence	: Some pubescence is present
Length of leaf stem	: 5 - 10 mm
Petiole surface structure	: Slightly pubescent

The Bud

	Peduncle length	:	40 - 70 mm, depending on season
	Size	- Diameter	: 2 mm
5		- Length	: 8 - 12 mm
	Shape	:	Elongated and ovate
	Color	:	Medium green 137D
	Sepals	- Colour	: Light green 138B
		- Form	: Upright
10		- Number	: 5, fused
		- Size	: 5 mm
		- Shape	: Elongated

The Flower

15	Facing direction	:	Upward
	Outward curvature of petal	:	Medium curved
	Diameter	:	18 - 20 mm
	Height	:	17 - 19 mm
20	Borne	:	In a cluster
	Form	:	Salverform ; sessile on terminal spikes
	Cluster	:	Spike
	Color	Near center	: Red, N34B, a bit darker
		Towards edge	: Gradually going to Pink, 39B
25	Eye	:	Part of all petals is darker (N34A) at the bases.
	Overlapping of petals	:	Separate
	No. of petals	:	Gamopetalous, 5lobed
	Shape of the petals	:	Each petal is heart shaped at the apex and
30			grown together at the base.
	Petal margin	:	Entire
	Petal surface texture	:	Smooth
	Size of the petal	- Length	: 6 - 9 mm
		- Width	: 6 - 8 mm

- | | | | |
|---|--|------------|---|
| | Spike | - Length | : 20 - 40 mm |
| | | - Diameter | 40 - 50 mm |
| | Calyx | | : Length of 8 - 11 mm |
| | Anthocyan pigmentation of Calyx limb: Absent | | |
| 5 | Color of the calyx | | : Dark green 137B |
| | No. of flowers per spike | | : 25 - 35 |
| | Fragrance | | : No fragrance |
| | Lastingness of the bloom | | : New florets continue to open in one spike over
a period of 14 days |

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Reproductive organs

Androecium

- | | | |
|----|-------------------|---------------|
| 15 | Stamens quantity: | 4 |
| | Anther shape: | ovoid |
| | Anther length: | 1 mm |
| | Anther color: | 144C |
| | Pollen amount: | scarce pollen |
| | Pollen color: | 145C |

20 Gynoecium

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|----|-------------------|---------------|
| 25 | Pistils quantity: | 1 |
| | Pistil length: | 1.8 to 2.2 cm |
| | Stigma shape: | bi-lobed |
| | Stigma color: | 144D |
| | Style length: | 1.4 to 1.8 cm |
| | Style color: | 144D |
| | Ovary color: | 144C |

No seedset is observed.

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Roots

- Type of roots : Fibrous. Roots start to grow on every part of the stem that contacts the soil, so not only at the nodes.

Physiological and ecological characteristics.

- Good tolerance to heat and cold. Strong resistance to pests and diseases, particularly
- 5 powdery mildew.